

CONSTRUCTION BOARD HAVING A NUMBER OF MARKS FOR FACILITATING THE INSTALLATION THEREOF AND A METHOD FOR FABRICATING SUCH CONSTRUCTION BOARD

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is based upon a provisional application Serial No. 60/058,188, filed Sep. 8, 1997.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a technique for facilitating the installation of construction boards (such as gypsum board, plywood, or the like) to supporting members and, more particularly, to such technique wherein markings are provided on such boards which may indicate the locations of such supporting members.

In constructing a house, office building, or the like, various types of construction boards, such as gypsum board, plywood and the like, may be utilized in forming walls, ceilings, floors, roofs and so forth. Such types of constructing boards are normally provided in relatively large sizes (such as 4'x8', 4'x10', 4'x12', and so forth) and are typically attached to so-called studs, joists, rafters or the like (hereinafter, referred to as "supports" or "support members"), which may be formed of wood or metal, by use of nails, screws or other types of fasteners. For example, as shown in FIG. 1, a construction board 2 (which may be a gypsum board) may be attached to a plurality of studs or supports 1 by use of a plurality of nails or screws 3.

Since each piece of gypsum board, plywood, or the like is relatively large, such piece may cover or hide from view a relatively large portion or portions of the respective supports to which it is to be attached. As a result, it may be difficult for a worker to locate the respective supports so as to attach such piece of gypsum board or plywood to such supports.

As is to be appreciated, the above-described arrangement may cause a worker to need a relatively large amount of time to attach a piece of gypsum board or plywood or the like to the respective supports. Additionally, in such arrangement, the worker may not properly secure the piece of gypsum board, plywood or the like to the supports with each fastener. That is, one or more of such fasteners may "miss" the respective support, such as fasteners 4 shown in FIG. 1.

OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention is to provide a technique wherein markings or lines are placed on a construction board (such as gypsum board, plywood, or the like, so as to facilitate the installation of such construction board to supports.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a technique as aforesaid wherein the markings or lines are horizontal and/or vertical lines which are arranged at predetermined intervals.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a technique as aforesaid wherein the predetermined intervals correspond to standard intervals between supports (such as 16 inches or 24 inches) or wherein the predetermined intervals have a relatively small value (such as 1/2, 1, or 1 1/2 inches) and in which alternating lines may have distinguishing characteristics (such as different colors, types of marks, and so forth, so as readily distinguish between adjacent lines.

In accordance with an aspect of the present invention, a construction board (such as a piece of gypsum board, plywood or so forth) adapted to be attached to a number of supports in a building, house or the like, is provided wherein the construction board has at least two sides in which at least one of the sides includes a number of marks for facilitating the attaching of the construction board to the number of supports.

Other objects, features and advantages according to the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description of the illustrated embodiments when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which corresponding components are identified by the same reference numerals.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates a diagram to which reference will be made in explaining the installation of a conventional construction board;

FIG. 2A is diagram of a construction board according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2B is diagram of a construction board according to another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2C is diagram of a construction board according to another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2D is diagram of construction board according to another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2E is diagram of construction board according to another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2F is diagram of construction board according to another embodiment of the present invention;

FIGS. 3A and 3B are diagrams to which reference will be made in explaining the installation of the present construction boards of FIGS. 2A and 2B; and

FIGS. 4A and 4B are diagrams illustrating systems for placing lines or marks on a construction board.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Preferred embodiments of the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

FIGS. 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2E, and 2F illustrate construction boards having markings thereon for facilitating the installation of such boards to supports. Each of such construction boards will now be more fully described.

In FIG. 2A, a construction board 10 is shown which has a plurality of marks or vertical lines 12 each having a predetermined distance X therebetween. Such predetermined distance X may correspond to a standard spacing between supports which, for example, may have a value of 16 inches. Accordingly, in such situation, if the construction board 10 has a size of 4'x8', such board may have five lines 12 which are respectively spaced at 16, 32, 48, 64, and 80 inches from an edge A of the board. Alternatively, the predetermined distance X may have other values such as 24 inches wherein a 4'x8' construction board would have three lines respectively spaced at 24, 48, and 72 inches from the edge A of the board.

In FIG. 2B, a construction board 14 is shown which has a plurality of marks or horizontal lines 16 each having a predetermined distance Y therebetween. Such predetermined distance Y may correspond to a standard spacing between supports which, for example, may have a value of 16 inches. Accordingly, in such situation, if the construction

board 14 has a size of 4'x8', such board may have two lines 16 which are respectively spaced at 16 and 32 inches from an edge B of the board. Alternatively, the predetermined distance Y may have other values such as 24 inches wherein a 4'x8' construction board would have one line located at 24 inches from the edge B of the board.

In FIG. 2C, a construction board 20 is shown which has a plurality of marks or vertical lines 12 each having a predetermined distance X therebetween and a plurality of marks or horizontal lines 16 each having a predetermined distance Y therebetween. Such predetermined distances X and Y may correspond to a standard spacing between supports which, for example, may have a value of 16 inches or, alternatively, either of the predetermined distances X and Y may have other values such as 24 inches, in a manner similar to that previously described.

In FIG. 2D, a construction board 30 is shown which has a plurality of marks or vertical lines 32 and 34 each having a predetermined distance Z therebetween. Such predetermined distance Z may have a relatively small value, such as $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch, 1 inch, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches or the like. As is to be appreciated, during installation, each line 32 or 34 may not correspond to a support member. Nevertheless, such arrangement may facilitate the installation of the construction board 30 to support members in that once a worker locates a respective support member, the worker may utilize or follow the one or ones of the lines 32 and 34 closest to the respective support member in securing the board to the support member. Additionally, the lines 32 and 34 may have respectively different features so as to distinguish between adjacent lines and aid a worker in utilizing or following a respective line. For example, the lines 32 may have a first color (such as red) and the lines 34 may have a second color (such as blue). As another example, the lines 32 may be solid or continuous type lines, whereas the lines 34 may be dotted or dashed type lines.

In FIG. 2E, a construction board 40 is shown which has a plurality of marks or horizontal lines 42 and 44 each having a predetermined distance Q therebetween. Such predetermined distance Z may have a relatively small value, such as $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch, 1 inch, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches or the like. In a manner similar to that previously described with regard to FIG. 2D, during installation, each line 42 or 44 may not correspond to a support member. Nevertheless, such arrangement may facilitate the installation of the construction board 40 to support members in that once a worker locates a respective support member, the worker may utilize or follow the one or ones of the lines 42 and 44 closest to the respective support member in securing the board to the support member. Additionally, the lines 42 and 44 may have respectively different features so as to distinguish between adjacent lines and aid a worker in utilizing or following a respective line. For example, the lines 42 may have a first color (such as red) and the lines 44 may have a second color (such as blue). As another example, the lines 42 may be solid or continuous type lines, whereas the lines 44 may be dotted or dashed type lines.

In FIG. 2F, a construction board 50 is shown which has a plurality of marks or vertical lines 52/54 each having a predetermined distance Z therebetween and a plurality of marks or horizontal lines 62/64 each having a predetermined distance Q therebetween. Such predetermined distances Z and Q may have relatively small values, such as $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch, 1 inch, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches or the like in a manner similar to that previously described with reference to FIGS. 2D and 2E. Further, the distances Z and Q may have the same value or, alternatively, may have different values. For example, Z may

have a value of 1 inch and Q may have a value of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Also, in a manner similar to that previously described, the vertical lines 52 and 54 and the horizontal lines 62 and 64 may have respectively different features so as to distinguish between adjacent lines and aid a worker in utilizing or following a respective line in securing the board to a support member. For example, the lines 52 and 62 may have a first color (such as red; and the lines 54 and 64 may have a second color (such as blue). As another example, the lines 52 and 62 may be solid or continuous type lines, whereas the lines 54 and 64 may be dotted or dashed type lines.

As an example of how the above-described lines may facilitate the installation of a construction board reference is made to FIGS. 3A and 3B wherein the construction boards 10 and 14 are being respectively attached to the supports 1. As shown therein, when the boards 10 and 14 are being attached to the supports, the lines 12 and 16 may correspond to the locations of the supports 1. As a result, a worker or installer may be provided with an easy to follow indication of the locations of the supports 1. As is to be appreciated, such easy to follow indications may reduce the number of nails, screws or other fasteners which "miss" the supports, thereby reducing the time needed for a worker to properly install the construction board.

The above-described lines or markings on the construction boards may be installed thereon at the time of fabrication of such construction boards. For example, as shown in FIG. 4A, in a fabrication system 110, a roll of paper 100 used for fabricating a gypsum board 104 may have lines 102 placed thereon prior to the manufacturing of such gypsum board. In this example, such paper may be rolled out during the manufacturing process and the gypsum board is fabricated. Upon completion, the lines 102 are already on the gypsum board 104. Alternately, as shown in FIG. 4B, in a fabrication system 200, lines 206 may be placed on gypsum board or other types of construction boards 202 after completion of such boards. That is, the lines 206 may be added to the construction boards 202 as the last or one of the last steps in the fabrication of such boards by use of a printer-type device 204 or the like.

Thus, the present invention provides a construction board having a number of lines which facilitate the installation of such board to a number of supports in a building, house or the like. Such lines may have a number of different arrangements. For example, the lines may be arranged as a plurality of substantially horizontal and/or vertical lines which have a predetermined distance or distances therebetween. Such distance or distances may correspond to the standard spacing between supports (such as 16 or 24 inches). Alternatively the spacing between lines may have a relatively small value, such as $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch, 1 inch, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, 2 inches or the like. Additionally, adjacent lines may have respective characteristics (such as different colors or types of lines—solid or dotted) so as to easily distinguish between adjacent lines.

By using the present invention, a worker may easily install a construction board in a relatively small amount of time. Additionally, the present invention may reduce or eliminate the number of fasteners (nails, screws, or the like) which "miss" a support member. Further, by reducing the number of such missed fasteners, the present invention may ensure that the construction board is properly installed.

Although in the above description of the present invention, the construction board may have been described as gypsum board, the present invention is not so limited. That is, the present invention may also be applied to other types of construction boards such as plywood, plyscore, particle board, and other types of sheathing material and the like.